



Primary Source

Medicare Locals - Transition

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From the Transition Team's Terry Findlay

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It is hoped that there will be an announcement by the middle of May about the first round of Medicare Locals. Each of these groups will have challenges, some unique and others shared. To effectively plan for their support and development requirements a needs analysis will be conducted by AGPN, in collaboration with the SBO transition field support, through interviews with key players. This will inform a significant part of the Transition team activity over the next six months. This will be in addition to the work that has already been committed to and described below.

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Implementation and tools support

As we move from the ITA process towards the implementation support to emerging Medicare Locals, the Transition team is beginning to work on products and services to assist in this regard.

Contractually a number of products are required and the Transition Team will be looking to the emerging Medicare Local staff to be part of the consultation process to ensure that the products offer the best support.

These include

- Building on the Clinical Governance Framework so that a full guide is available. Consultation on this will begin in June
- Development of a Health Promotion Guide. AGPN will also be looking to consult with the Prevention Agency on this product
- Development of a Service Integration Guide. The team will be looking to build on the existing best practice in the network to develop this product.



Speeches for the 2010 AGPN National Forum can be found at:

www.gpnetworkforum.com.au/forum-speeches

[Click here to view the events calendar.](#)

- Community Engagement Guide. This is being launched at the Collaboration Workshop in early May.
- Governance training and support tools. The team is investigating individual Medicare Local Board and Executive governance training in conjunction with SBOs. A Master Class, Governing for Success: Best Practice Not-For-Profit Governance is also being run on 16-17 June in Brisbane.

However, the Transition team are particularly keen to hear from Medicare Locals about what they would need in this implementation phase and it is hoped that once the first tranche of Medicare Locals is announced the team can start to work with organisations to determine their needs.

Invitation to Apply – support for revision

For applicants that were not successful in tranche 1 feedback will be provided by the Department later in the month. The Transition team is available to discuss with applicants the outcome of this feedback and what support they may need to revise their applications for **submission by 19 July**. It is expected that this will, at least in the first instance, have to be done on an individual rather than a collective basis to reflect the circumstances of each area and the nature of the feedback. Contact transition@agpn.com.au to arrange a suitable time.

Boundaries

The final Medicare Local boundaries are expected to be announced shortly. Contact will be made with Divisions that are affected by the changes to discuss the implications for their ML applications. This may require a revision of the application should these areas not be successful in the first round.

Medicare Locals and Local Hospital/Health Networks

Discussions are underway with key stakeholders about how to develop the critical relationships between the two sectors. A national workshop is being discussed as well as specific state/territory approaches to addressing the interface issues that will be fundamental to achieving the national reform goals.

Facilitation service

When the dust finally settles around Medicare Locals in years to come, the vision for these new primary health care organisations will be a lot clearer.

It's not unlike the evolution of a family – it has its foundations, it introduces new members, it changes its look and feel in each generational change but its key aim is to be cohesive and progressive.

However, it's never smooth sailing but charting this course can be helped with an impartial third party which can provide professional facilitation through the National Transition Team.

Regardless of the results of the ITA process for each Medicare Local, there will still be a need for assistance with

relationships, partnership development and to debrief. Transition is here, it will not get any easier but a sustained non- judgmental, and supportive hand, may be just the ticket!

Contact us, together with the field support staff from the SBO's because we are just part of the family.

Due diligence checklist

A 'Transition due diligence checklist' developed by KPMG to assist transitioning Network members in the establishment of Medicare Locals is now available at

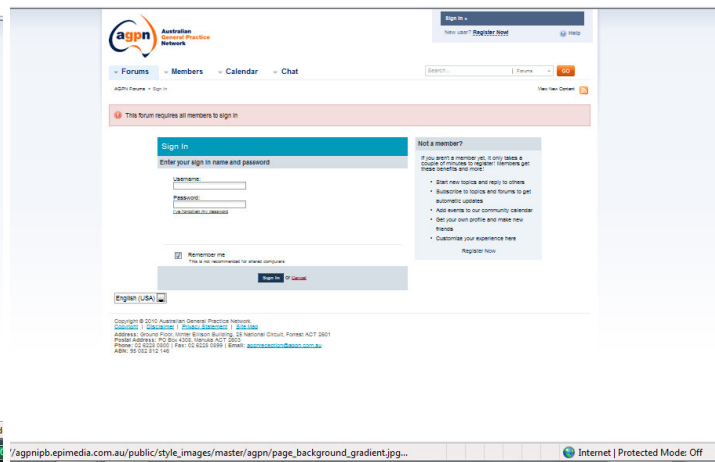
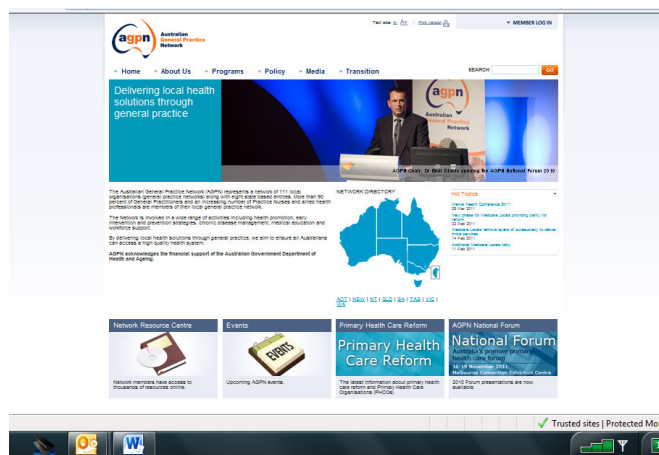
<http://www.agpn.com.au/medicarelocaltransition/governance>. The purpose of the checklist is to assist Network members to obtain as much information as possible about their proposed partners to better inform their decisions on integration and to identify potential business risks, conflicts and integration constraints.

In addition to the checklist, KPMG will respond to any question or issue raised by a general practice network or division in relation to the use of this checklist in a Q&A format on the AGPN Forums Website at

www.medicarelocaltransition.com.au. Questions can either be posted directly on the website or emailed to transition@agpn.com.au for posting on the website.

Medicare Local Transition - resources

Medicare Local transition resources are available through two distinct websites.



AGPN Website
www.agpn.com.au/medicarelocaltransition

AGPN Transition Forums
www.medicarelocaltransition.com.au

AGPN Website

Information, products and services can now be accessed under 'Transition' on the AGPN Website at:

www.agpn.com.au/medicarelocaltransition. These web pages contain resources on governance, partnerships and engagement, population health, organisational development, change management and support in developing ITA applications. No username or password is required.

AGPN Transition Forums

Registered members can also participate in online forums at: www.medicarelocaltransition.com.au. These forums are in Q&A format and focus on key issues such as legal and governance, human resources and the ITA application process. To register for the AGPN Transition Forums please contact Jan Ridd at jridd@agpn.com.au stating your name, position, email address and organisation.

Medicare Locals - Transition editor:

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